

## Claims

- [c1] Apparatus comprising:
- an interface which provides removable connection to a plurality of expansion devices;
  - an information storage unit for storing settings information which indicates whether the expansion devices connected to said interface are removable; and
  - a listing unit for listing the expansion devices removable from said interface, based on said settings information stored in said information storage unit;
- said information storage unit and said listing unit together comprising an interface which allows expansion devices to be attached and detached.
- [c2] The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a setting change unit for changing said settings information stored in said information storage unit, based on outside requests.
- [c3] The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said information storage unit is a non-volatile memory which stores information referenced by BIOS (basic input/output system).
- [c4] Apparatus comprising:
- an interface section having a plurality of interfaces, each interface providing removable connection to a plurality of expansion devices;
  - a listing section for displaying a list based on settings information which indicates whether to permit removal of an expansion device from each of said interfaces;
  - a specification acceptance section for accepting specification of a specific interface from among said interfaces contained in said list; and
  - an unloading section for unloading a driver for the expansion device connected to said specific interface to allow the expansion device to be removed;
- said listing section and said specification acceptance section together comprising the plurality of interfaces which allow the expansion devices to be

attached and detached.

- [c5] The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said listing section lists only the interfaces from which removal of expansion devices is permitted.
- [c6] The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said specification acceptance section accepts only the specification of the interfaces from which removal of expansion devices is permitted.
- [c7] The apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising a choice acceptance section for accepting choices as to whether or not removal of the expansion device from each of the plurality of interfaces should be permitted.
- [c8] A method comprising the steps of:
  - displaying an explicit list of removable expansion devices in response to a certain operation, based on an information list which indicates whether the expansion devices are removable from a computer device;
  - accepting specification of a specific expansion device from among the expansion devices listed explicitly; and
  - unloading said specified specific expansion device from a system of said computer device.
- [c9] The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of displaying said explicit list comprises steps in which:
  - an OS (Operating System) of said computer device makes an inquiry to a BIOS;
  - the BIOS replies as to whether or not each of the expansion devices is removable, with reference to the information list; and
  - the OS indicates a list of removable expansion devices explicitly based on a reply from the BIOS.
- [c10] The method according to Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
  - receiving, from outside, settings concerning whether the expansion devices are removable from said computer device and generating settings information based on the received settings; and
  - generating the information list with reference to said settings information



about said specification stored in said non-volatile memory; and  
a process in which the OS displays a list of removable expansion devices  
based on the information provided by the BIOS.